

SUPPLEMENT TO

The Gleamer.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 1831.

New-Brunswick.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY, FREDERICTON;

On the motion of Mr. S. Humbert, the House went into a Committee of the whole, in consideration of the Bill relative to the Light Houses at the entrance of the harbour of St. John.—Mr. Gilbert in the Chair.—Bill read.

After some remarks from Messrs. Partelow, Humbert, Cunard, Barlow, Simonds, Slason, Partelow, Taylor, and Barlow, the Chairman left the chair, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again; which was granted.

Some little conversation took place as to the propriety of continuing the salary and appointment of the Province Agents in London, which appeared to be thought highly necessary by a majority.—House adjourned.

Wednesday, February 16

The House went into a Committee of the whole, on the Bill to regulate the Salmon Fishery in the County of Northumberland.—Mr. Taylor in the Chair.—Bill read.

Mr. Cunard stated that this was a Bill to regulate the Salmon Fishery of the County of Northumberland, but not to give any exclusive privileges; which would be an invasion of the natural right of the subject. The law now in force was very difficult to act upon, and insufficient in its operation. The consequence was, that the fish were fast being destroyed. He had taken great pains to acquire every information on the subject; previously to drawing up the bill. He should move that the bill be read section by section.

Mr. J. Humbert did not rise to oppose the bill; but the hon. member had stated it not to be local or exclusive. It appeared to him (Mr H.) to be full of locality. If the hon. gentleman would give the house some guarantee that the bill would not interfere with public rights, he (Mr H.) would not oppose it.

Mr. Scott, was not acquainted with the salmon fishery at Miramichi; but about 6 years ago, he (Mr S.) had brought into the house a salmon fishery bill, and had succeeded in getting it passed, and it had been productive of great good. In consequence of the knowledge he had of the salmon fishery in other rivers he had risen to say a few words now. The fish had formerly been, in the rivers he knew, very rapidly destroyed, by being caught at spawning time; but when the fishermen found the results of that bad practice, they ceased from it, and the fish had now again increased. There was, no doubt, great propriety in bringing in a bill to regulate the salmon fishery at Miramichi; and as it appeared that the hon. member for Northumberland had made great exertions in obtaining information on the subject, he (Mr S.) should, without hesitation, put every confidence in the hon. members statements, and support the bill.

Mr. Cunard said, that he believed he had already stated, that the bill invaded no natural right of the subject; that the existing laws were insufficient; and that the regulations adopted as to salmon fisheries in other countries had restored those fisheries to a flourishing state. But the hon. gentleman from King's County, required a guarantee. He (Mr. C.) had also said, that the Bill was particularly guarded in its provisions, so as to prevent exclusive rights. Its object was, to facilitate the recovery of fines for breaches of the regulations, and to prevent the destruction of the fish when they were gone to their spawning places.

Mr J. Humbert replied, that perhaps he had not quite understood the hon. member's declaration. His

present assurance was a sufficient guarantee for him.

Mr Weldon thought no guarantee ought to be required. Every member ought to pay proper attention to the reading of a bill. In his opinion, this would be a very useful bill. It gives no exclusive privileges, nor takes away any rights. It is merely a bill to improve the Salmon Fishery of Northumberland, to facilitate the recovery of fines, &c.

Mr J. Humbert contended that he had paid proper attention to the reading of the bill, for he had even moved from his own seat, in order more distinctly to hear the reading. But owing to the peculiar situation of the hon. member from Northumberland. [his colleague being absent,] he (Mr H.) felt rather undecided in his opinion of its merits. Hon. gentlemen from the same county frequently differed in opinions as to matters concerning their own county, an instance of which had occurred yesterday, in considering the light-house bill. If both the hon. members for Northumberland had been in their places, and agreed upon the subject, he (Mr H.) would have had no doubt on the matter.—Mr Cunard said a few words, in justification of the bill.—Bill read section by section.

Mr Harrison opposed the allowance of nets, extending 200 or 300 fathoms in length. He had never seen such nets; and thought they would change the natural course of the fish.

Mr Cunard said the section was the same as that in the old law, and the nets such as had always been allowed by it.—Mr Harrison thought such nets could never be considered lawful. He believed the laws allowed none extending more than 30 fathoms.

Mr. Cunard replied that such nets had been lawful ever since the hon. gentleman and himself were boys: The old law allowed them.

Mr. Harrison nevertheless considered, that nets of such a size would only tend to prevent poor men from enjoying the privilege of the fishery, while rich men, who could afford to provide such nets, would engross the whole benefits of it. The benefits of the fishery ought to be enjoyed equally by all.

Mr. Gilbert entirely coincided with Mr. Harrison.

Mr. Cunard objected to the postponement of the consideration of the bill. [A motion to report progress had been mentioned by Mr Slason.] He could shew hon. gentlemen the very section of the old bill, from which the present was copied. (The hon. member defended the clause, and observed, that perhaps the opposition the bill met with might be, because he (Mr C.) had brought it in; but he would not say it was.)

Mr. Chandler confessed that he possessed very little information respecting the Salmon Fishery at Miramichi. He thought that considerable courtesy was done to those hon. members who had made such research, for the purpose of forwarding any bill. The hon. mover of this bill, had certainly made very great exertions to obtaining every information necessary to its effective formation, and he, therefore, in his (Mr. Chandler's) opinion, deserved great credit. He would support the bill.

Mr. S. Humbert expressed similar opinions.

Mr. Cunard thought it probable that those hon. gentlemen who opposed the bill, might suppose him to be interested in it. He confessed he was interested in it, because he was interested in the prosperity of that part of the country, but in no other way whatever. He had nothing to do with any of the nets; owned none of them. The bill had been in the hands of fishermen, who had great experience in the matter; and